

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07

FMC-02 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-04 SS-15 NSC-05 SAJ-01 BIB-01

/086 W

----- 002123

R 081526Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3143

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPEHNAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

UNCLAS MOSCOW 11213

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ETRD, ELTN, EWWT, UR, IR, XG

SUBJ: SOVIETS ANNOUNCE NEW CONTAINER SERVICE FROM WESTERN EUROPE
TO IRAN THROUGH USSR

1. SOVIET PRESS AUGUST 7 ANNOUNCED THAT NEW TRANS-CAUCASUS
CONTAINER LINE WILL BEGIN OPERATING AUGUST 15 FOR SHIPMENT
OF CONTAINER CARGO FROM US AND WESTERN EUROPE TO IRAN. IN
ITS FIRST STAGE CONTAINERS WILL BE MOVED BY RAILWAY AND
TRUCKS. LATER, IN 1976, THEY WILL BE CARRIED BY RIVER
SHIPPING. TRANSPORT TIME FROM LONDON TO TEHRAN WILL
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ALLEGEDLY BE ALMOST 20 DAYS SHORTER THAN TIME REQUIRED FOR

SHIPPING ROUTES VIA THE ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN OR THROUGH WESTERN EUROPE.

2. NEW LINE WILL BE OPERATED BY SOVIET ORGANIZATIONS SOYUZVENESHTRANS AND SOVINFLOT. SUBSIDIARY AGENCIES WILL BE ANGLO-SOVIET SHIPPING CO. IN UK, SAYMAA LINES IN FINLAND, TRANSNAUTIK IN THE FRG AND TRANSWORLD MARINE AGENCY IN BELGIUM. CONTAINERS WILL BE STANDARD INTERNATIONAL SIZE. THE LINE WILL OPERATE FROM SOVIET BALTIC PORTS AND FROM FINLAND WITH SOUTHERN TERMINALS AT THE AZERBAIJANI CITIES OF DZHULFA, ASTARA AND BAKU. CONTAINERS WILL ALSO BE TRANSSHIPPED THROUGH IRANIAN PORT OF BANDER-E-PAHLAVI.

3. ACCORDING TO A RECENT ARTICLE IN TASS VESTNIK TECHNICAL DETAILS FOR THE LINE'S OPERATION WERE WORKED OUT AT A JULY MEETING IN LENINGRAD BETWEEN SOVIET AGENCIES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF FREIGHT AND SHIPPING FIRMS FROM THE FRG, BELGIUM, NETHERLANDS, FINLAND AND THE UK. VESTNIK ALSO REPORTED THAT THE TRANSIT OF CONTAINERS THROUGH SOVIET BALTIC PORTS HAS BEEN GREATLY ACCELERATED BY THE USE OF HIGH-SPEED SHIPS EQUIPPED FOR HORIZONTAL LOADING AND UNLOADING. STOESEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MARINE TRANSPORTATION, PRESS COMMENTS, STEAMSHIP LINES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW11213
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750275-0370
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750870/aaaacjnd.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JAN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JAN 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIETS ANNOUNCE NEW CONTAINER SERVICE FROM WESTERN EUROPE TO IRAN THROUGH USSR
TAGS: ETRD, ELTN, EWWT, UR, IR, XG, XT, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006